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Agenda item 14

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Letter dated 24 August 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations and other international organizations at Geneva, addressed to the Chairman of the forty-fifth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

I am writing to draw to your attention that last Thursday, 19 August, 1993, a group of 200 terrorists, members of "Sendero Luminoso" (Shining Path), assassinated 61 indigenous men, women and children of the Ashaninka population in the valley of Mazamari, province of Satipo, department of Junin; moreover, an indeterminate number are missing.

The terrorists used machetes, knives and lances to assassinate the 61 indigenous after torturing and mutilating them. The cruelty of this group was proved once more when they cut the ears of a group of 14 children between 6 to 12 years old who had been receiving medical and nourishing treatment in a hospital of Stipo. Sendero Luminoso still has an indeterminate number of Ashaninkas working as slaves, under death threat, in inhuman conditions.

Terrorism violates once again the human rights of the Peruvian population, and in this particular case tries to perpetrate genocide against the indigenous population of Ashaninkas.

In Peru, some governmental sectors, as well as private and public bodies, the Church and important people like the former Secretary-General of the

United Nations, Ambassador Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, have condemned these terrorist actions which plunged the relatives of victims under sadness and abandonment.

The Government of Peru, taking into consideration the gravity of the actions mentioned above, requests the intervention of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities through a declaration of the Chairman in relation to this terrible fact.

(Signed): José Urritia
Ambassador

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